

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SAM-01 IO-11 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

SAB-01 SCCT-01 DHA-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

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FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3917

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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DEPT PASS TO DEPT OF LABOR/ILAB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ELAB ILO MO US AG MR

SUBJ: MOROCCO'S LABOR CHIEF COMMENTS ON SAHARA, ELECTIONS,  
ILO, ANGOLA

1. DURING FRIENDLY AND RELAXED TWO HOUR LUNCHEON AT CONSUL  
GENERAL'S RESIDENCE, JAN 28, 1976 TO INTRODUCE THE NEWLY ARRIVED  
POL/LAB OFFICER TO MAJOUR BEN SEDDIK, THE SECY GEN OF THE  
UMT, BEN SEDDIK COMMENTED ON VARIETY OF TOPICS DOMESTIC AND  
INTERNATIONAL, SHOWING HIMSELF TO BE A SUPER-CHAUVANIST ON  
THE SAHARA CONFRONTATION WITH ALGERIA.

2. ON SAHARA ISSUE, BEN SEDDIK TOOK STRONG, NATIONALISTIC  
STANCE IN DEFENSE OF MOROCCAN CLAIMS TO THE TERRITORY AND,  
INDEED, ARGUED FORCEFULLY FOR MOROCCO'S CLAIM TO MAURITANIA AND  
THE WESTERN SAHARA. IT IS RIDICULOUS TO ASSUME THAT THE POLISARIO  
FRONT AND ALGERIA COULD TRANSFORM WHAT WAS PURE AND SIMPLE  
BILATERAL ISSUE INTO AN INTERNATIONAL CAUSE, ACCORDING TO THE  
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SECY GEN. ALGERIA'S APPEAL FOR CUBAN AND NORTH VIETNAMESE

ASSISTANCE COULD NOT ALTER THE REALITY OF MOROCCO'S SUCCESSFUL INCORPORATION OF SPANISH SAHARA INTO MOROCCAN TERRITORY: THAT WAS FAIT ACCOMPLI. THE INHABITANTS OF SPANISH SAHARA REGARD THEMSELVES AS MOROCCAN (NOT MAURITANIAN OR ALGERIAN OR ANY INDEPENDENT ENTITY) THE UMT LEADER SAID AND THEY WELCOMED MOROCCO'S RULE. BEN SEDDIK OBSERVED THAT HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR MISMANAGEMENT BY THE "REGIME", ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA WOULD HAVE LONG AGO BEEN PART OF MOROCCO WHOSE INHABITANTS DESIRED NOTHING MORE THAN TO BE RULED BY MOROCCO AS THEY FELT THEMSELVES TO BE MOROCCAN. HE SAID THAT MAURITANIA WILL EVENTUALLY ( IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF 50 YEARS OR SO) RETURN TO MOROCCAN RULE AS WILL ALGERIA WHEN THE PRESENT MOROCCAN REGIME IS TRANSFORMED. HE CLAIMED THAT IN THE EVENT OF WAR, MOROCCO WOULD CRUSH ALGERIA WHOSE GUERRILLA FIGHTERS WOULD BE NO MATCH FOR MOROCCO'S PROFESSIONAL ARMY IN SPITE OF ALGERIA'S SUPERIOR ARMAMENT AND FIRE POWER AND DECIMATION IN MOROCCAN SENIOR ARMY RANKS. HE CLAIMED THAT ALGERIA'S ARMY COMMANDERS DID NOT INTEND TO ABANDON THEIR AREAS OF CONTROL AND PRIVILEGE IN ALGERIA TO GO FIGHT AGAINST MOROCCO. BEN SEDDIK SPOKE IN THE MOST CONDESCENDING TERMS ABOUT THE "ALGERIAN CHARACTER" NOTING THAT ALGERIA HAD BEEN RULED FOR CENTURIES BY THE FRENCH WHILE MOROCCO HAD ACTIVELY FOUGHT THE FRENCH UNTIL 1937 AND THROWN OFF FRENCH RULE AFTER ONLY A SHORT COLONIAL EXPERIENCE. STILL, THE MOROCCANS ABSORBED FROM THE FRENCH AND OTHER NATIONALITIES WHILE THE ALGERIANS WERE LACKING IN IMAGINATION AND INTELLECT. BY WAY OF EXAMPLE BEN SEDDIK CLAIMED THAT MAURITANIAN AND GUINEAN STUDENTS SENT TO ALGIERS FOR STUDY BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS TRANSFERRED TO RABAT BECAUSE THEY FELT MORE AKIN TO MOROCCAN CHARACTER. ONLY MOROCCO, ACCORDING TO BEN SEDDIK, HAS THE CAPACITY TO BRING ABOUT LARGER COOPERATION AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE MAGHREB AND THE AFRICANS TO THE SOUTH.

3. ON THE POSSIBILITY OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN MOROCCO, BEN SEDDIK DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE SOON. HE SEEMED QUITE DISHEARTENED ABOUT THE PROSPECT POINTING OUT THAT MOROCCO HAD EXPERIENCED ELECTIONS IN THE PAST WHICH NEVERTHELESS HAD NOT ALTERED THE POLITICAL REALITY OF STAGNATION AND DECADENCE. HE DID NOT FORSEE HIS UMT NEWSPAPER RESUMING PUBLICATION EVEN IF NATIONAL ELECTIONS WERE TO TAKE PLACE SINCE THE EXPENSE OF PRINTING A NEWSPAPER WHICH IS REGULARLY CON-

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FISCATED WAS TOO GREAT. SOMETIMES, THE FACT OF NOT PUBLISHING IS MORE PERSUASIVE THAN CONTINUING PUBLICATION, BEN SEDDIK OBSERVED (I.E. THE ACCUSATION OF ABUSE OF POWER BY THE MONARCHY WAS MORE CONVINCING BY THE PAPER'S SHUT-DOWN THAN BY ITS CONTINUED PUBLICATION) BEN SEDDIK SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT OMAR BENJELLOUN'S SUCCESSOR (MURDERED EDITOR OF THE USFP NEWSPAPER, AL MOHARRIR, PUBLISHED IN CASABLANCA) NOTING THAT USFP HEADQUARTERS WERE IN RABAT. HE WAS PLAINLY

UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT COMMENTING ON THE USFP, THE CHIEF RIVAL OF THE UNFP.

4. CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST, SEDDIK OBSERVED THAT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY WAS DETERMINED BY CONGRESS THESE DAYS WHICH, IN TURN, WAS STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY ZIONIST FORCES IN THE U.S. HE EXPLAINED THE RECENT U.S. SECURITY COUNCIL VETO OF THE RES ON PALESTINE AS THE RESULT OF ZIONIST PRESSURES. HE SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION CONGRESS HAD CLEARLY OVERSTEPPED ITS BOUNDS BY ITS OUTRAGEOUS INTERFERENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BEN SEDDIK THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS MORE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN EUROPE THAN IN THE U.S. BECAUSE THE MEDIA AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN THE U.S. WERE CONTROLLED BY CAPITALISTS. HE CLAIMED THAT NIXON WAS REMOVED FROM THE PRESIDENCY BY CONSERVATIVE NOT REFORM FORCES. HE HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR SECY KISSINGER. HE BELIEVED THAT A SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD BE FOUND IF U.S. LEADERSHIP WAS MORE DYNAMIC.

5. ASKED FOR HIS OPINION ON U.S. NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO, BEN SEDDIK CHIDED THE U.S. FOR LEAVING JUST BECAUSE IT NO LONGER COULD DOMINATE A PLACID MAJORITY. HE SAID THAT THE BASIC ISSUE FOR THE U.S. WAS NOT ILO SUPPORT FOR THE PLO CAUSE BUT RATHER THE EROSION OF TRIPARTITE REPRESENTATION IN THE ILO BROUGHT ABOUT BY ADMISSION OF MONOLITHIC, ONE PARTY STATES WITH NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES INSTEAD OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. HE BELIEVED THAT U.S. INTENT TO WITHDRAW WAS PIQUE AT THE CHANGED MAJORITY IN THE ILO WHICH NOW REFLECTED THESE SOCIALIZED, ONE-PARTY STATES. HE CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR NOT CONSIDERING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ILO CHARTER TO CHANGE THE TRIPARTITE PRINCIPLE WHICH WAS NO LONGER APPLICABLE TO A MAJORITY OF THE MEMEBER COUNTRIES.

6. BEN SEDDIK EXPLAINED SOVIET PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AS DIRECTED AGAINST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE U.S. NOT INDICATIVE OF ANY GENUINE SOVIET INTEREST IN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT MOST AFRICANS CONSIDRED THE SOVIET UNION IN THE IMPERIALIST CAMP IN ANY CASE. THE PRC HAD CLEARLY OUTDISTANCED THE SOVIET UNION IN WINNING FRIENDS IN AFRICA.

7. IN SPITE OF BEN SEDDIK'S IDEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE (SOMEWHAT BLURRED AT TIMES BY HIS PENCHANT FOR INSTANT GENERALIZATION), THE UMT LEADER APPEARED PLEASED TO MAINTAIN HIS SOCIAL CONTACT WITH U.S. CONSULATE REPRESENTATIVES.  
BRUBECK

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